

MEETING MINUTES

MILPITAS COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION Milpitas City Hall – Committee Conference Room Wednesday, October 8, 2014

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call** Chair Beard called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Present: Chair Beard, Vice Chair Batilo, Commissioners Holland, Leon, Maglalang, Manassau, Rosario, Truong

Alternate Commissioners Present: Kathapurkar, Sharma

Absent: Mohsin, Do, Councilmember Gomez
- II. **Seating of Alternates** – Commissioner Kathapurkar
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Chair Beard led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** – Commissioner Leon said an NBO Awards Subcommittee item should be added to the agenda and it was added as Item E under Unfinished Business and Chair Beard moved Unfinished Business Item B to be heard before New Business. Commissioner Maglalang motioned, and Commissioner Leon seconded, for approval of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.
- V. **Approval of Minutes – Minutes of September 3, 2014** – Commissioner Rosario motioned, and Commissioner Leon seconded, for approval of the meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
- VI. **Public Forum** – No items
- VII. **Announcements** – Staff Liaison Felix Reliford said that the previous evening the City Council appointed Commissioner Holland as a voting member, the other alternate members moved up, and new alternate member Mike Bilbao was appointed to the commission. Planning Director Steven McHarris wants the involvement of other commissions in the recommendation of the official City tree and flower. He will assign staff to enhance the tree planting program, which will include maps, before moving this forward.

Mr. Reliford said that after his retirement in December, he plans to return on a part time basis for the CDBG annual process.
- VIII. **Liaison Report** – Councilmember Gomez was not present
- IX. **Commissioners' Round Table** – No items
- X. **New Business:**

A. Heritage Tree Nominations

There have been no heritage tree nominations.

B. Earthquake Retrofits and Inspections

Chief Building Official Keyvan Irannejad showed a PowerPoint presentation and discussed earthquake retrofits. He said that building codes have been updated with more stringent

structural requirements to address seismic safety, however there are many older buildings which have not been retrofitted to meet the newer building codes. In a continuing effort to improve customer service and streamline the permitting process, the Building and Safety department offers an online permitting system (E-permits) which allows customers to apply for and obtain certain types of commercial or residential building permits on-line without leaving their homes, and voluntary seismic retrofit permits can be accessed this way. Mr. Irannejad added that home retrofit improvements are exempt from county assessor property taxes.

XI. Unfinished Business

A. Spring Cleanup Event - List of possible locations

Chair Beard said the commission has participated in a cleanup event for the past three years in a row at mobile home parks, and this year they would like to choose a new site for the 2015 cleanup event.

Staff identified three potential areas for a cleanup event. 1) Temple/Adams area, north of the Milpitas Unified School District building, across from the Ocean Supermarket, 2) Selwyn/Shirley/Edsel Drive area, south of Fiesta Plaza, 3) Starlight Pines area, in the southern portion of Milpitas.

Commissioner Leon believes the first two options are the best choices and Commissioner Kathapurkar believes the number of senior citizens in an area should be part of the criteria.

Chair Beard would like to plan the cleanup event to coincide with Milpitas Cares' service week so that they can provide assistance.

Commissioner Leon motioned, and Commissioner Maglalang seconded, to consider the Selwyn/Shirley/Edsel area as the first option for the cleanup, and the Temple/Adams area as the second option. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Tree Planting Presentation and Future Event

Mr. Reliford has been in contact with Our City Forest which has received grant funding for trees and Milpitas will receive a portion of the grant.

Commissioner Holland said the Tree Planting subcommittee met and discussed the planting of trees and whether it is ethical to plant more trees or defer plantings to a more appropriate time due to the drought. She said she met with City staff and asked these questions. 1) Is there a possibility of planting trees in areas that are already irrigated? The response was that there are locations that are irrigated however new trees require more water than the irrigation can provide. 2) There appear to be a lot of dead trees in the city and she wondered if they should be using what little water is available to save the trees the city already has or planting new ones. The response was that, with the current water supply situation, new plantings should be curtailed until the water supply improves. 3) How many of the newly planted trees from the February event have survived? She said that of the 100 trees planted, 90% have survived and the other 10% are struggling because they are not located in the direct path of a sprinkler system. The subcommittee does not support tree plantings until they get a green light from the city but they will continue to pursue grants to meet future tree planting goals.

Public Works Director Jeff Moneda said there was a state urgency ordinance passed a couple of months ago requiring water use restrictions and discussed some of the ways his department is addressing the restrictions, including the installation of recycled water facilities for use by developers on construction sites.

Commissioner Leon motioned, and Commissioner Holland seconded, to table the planting of new trees, continue pursuing grants for the CAC's tree planting program, and consider the possibility of planting trees that are feasible for use with recycled water. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Happy City Action Items

Mr. Reliford said the commission directed staff to return to the CAC with this item upon a final report from Dr. Spano, which he said is inconclusive at this time and recommended returning with this item after the report is finalized.

D. Make a Difference Day Budget

Mr. Reliford posted flyers for this event at the senior center, city hall break room, community center, and sports center.

Commissioner Batilo would like to know who has renting the senior center on the day of the event, she would like lanyards for the volunteers, and they are in need of volunteer nurses to administer the flu shots.

E. NBO Awards Subcommittee

Commissioner Leon said the NBO subcommittee met and discussed several recommendations for the NBO Awards: 1) the commission should review the number of categories and limit them, 2) there should be at least three applications per category or no award will be issued, 3) improve the certificate to include a frame, 4) applicant needs to meet two of three requirements which are: that they use drought resistant landscaping, that the landscaping incorporates California native plants, and that the landscaping in the front of the home be in good condition.

Chair Beard liked the recommendations but feels there should be more discussion on this item.

- XII. Adjournment** – Commissioner Rosario moved, and Commissioner Batilo seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm to the next meeting of November 5, 2014. The motion carried unanimously.